

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 9005

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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PASS: COMMERCE FOR SCHONING, NMFS

COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR EFIS OECD

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSED TRANSFER FOR
FISHERIES TO PART II OF BUDGET

REF: OECD PARIS 10137

1. SUMMARY: SEC GEN PROPOSES TRANSFER OF FISHERIES TO
PART II OF BUDGET. MISSION URGENTLY REQUESTS USG EVAL-
UATION OF USEFULNESS AND RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF OECD
FISHERIES WORK BEFORE 1976 PROGRAM AND BUDGET
DISCUSSIONS START IN COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 4.

2. ACCORDING TO SECRETARY GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON THE 1976
PROGRAM AND BUDGET, "THE ACTIVITY ON FISHERIES HAS TRADI-
TIONALLY BEEN LOCATED IN THE DIRECTORATE FOR AGRICUL-
TURE WITH FINANCING THROUGH THE PART I BUDGET BY ALL
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MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN RECENT YEARS RESERVATIONS HAVE

BEEN EXPRESSED BY A NUMBER OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AS TO THE UTILITY OF THE ACTIVITY. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THEREFORE PROPOSES IN 1976 THAT, THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF A PART II BUDGET, THE ACTIVITY SHOULD CONTINUE BUT SUPPORTED ONLY BY THOSE MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVING A DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY."(C(75)176, PAGE 355).

3. FRANCE HAS CONSISTENTLY PUSHED FOR ABOLITION OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE AND THE FISHERIES DIVISION. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS REFLECTS FRENCH INTEREST IN AN EC COMMON FISHERIES POLICY AND DESIRE TO AVOID CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF FRENCH POLICY ON FISHERIES IN AN OECD FORUM. IN THIS CONNECTION, NOTE E.G. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ALL FRESH OR FROZEN UNPROCESSED FISH IMPORTS FROM ALL NON-EC SOURCES INTO FRANCE, EFFECTIVE 23 FEBRUARY 1975. WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT FRENCH WOULD REMAIN IN FISHERIES PROGRAM AS PART II ACTIVITY.

4. OTHER LARGE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY JAPAN HAVE TAKEN A PASSIVE ATTITUDE ON OECD FISHERIES WORK. SMALL MEMBER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SCANDINAVIANS AND PORTUGUESE, HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS WORK.

5. BASED ON FOREGOING, MISSION FEARS THAT OECD FISHERIES COMMITTEE WOULD BECOME PRIMARILY A FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG SMALLER NATIONS WITH FISHERIES INTERESTS, IF IT COULD SURVIVE AT ALL. IF US PARTICIPATED IN FISHERIES WORK AS PART II ACTIVITY, WE WOULD BE ASSESSED 25 PERCENT OF BUDGET ACCORDING TO STANDARD OECD PRACTICE. WE WOULD THUS BE CALLED UPON FOR AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF BUDGETARY OUTLAY WITHOUT HAVING BENEFITS OF FORUM IN WHICH TO PUT PRESSURE ON FRENCH AND OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES FOR MORE LIBERAL FISHERIES POLICIES.

6. THE AGENDA OF THE COMING SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 24-28 PROVIDE FOR CONSIDERATION OF (1) POLICIES AND PROBLEMS RELATED TO SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES, (2) PROBLEMS OF OVERINVESTMENT IN TUNA FISHERIES, (3) LICENSING SYSTEMS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY, AND (4) COUNTER-RECESSION MEASURES IN AND ON BEHALF OF THE FISHING

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ION MEASURES IN AND ON BEHALF OF THE FISHING

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INDUSTRY. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE AGENDA GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE RELEVANCY OF THE FISHERIES WORK, ITS INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE OVERALL OECD OBJECTIVES, AND ITS LEGITIMACY AS AN ACTIVITY WHICH DESERVES TO BE CONTINUED UNDER PART I OF THE BUDGET.

7. THE PROPOSED FISHERIES BUDGET AMOUNTS TO ABOUT F900,000 (\$200,000) A YEAR. THE MANPOWER INVOLVED IS TWO HIGH-LEVEL PROFESSIONALS AND TWO SUPPORTING STAFF. ONE JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL WAS TRANSFERRED OUT OF FISHERIES WORK BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN 1974. AS A RESULT, THE STAFF STRUCTURE HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT UNBALANCED WITH THE SENIOR STAFF HAVING NO JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS
WASHINGTON'S EVALUATION OF THE USEFULNESS AND
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE OECD FISHERIES ACTIVITY IN
MEETING US POLICY INTERESTS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSAL FOR USE DURING
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COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON 1976 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 4.
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